

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, line 19 to page 6, line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

The invention provides an electric power steering system including an upper bracket fixed to a vehicle body, a steering column disposed between a pair of tightening plate portions of the upper bracket, a steering shaft provided rotatably within the steering column, a tilt mechanism including a tilt clamp which tightly fastens the steering column between the tightening plate portions of the upper bracket and a tilt pivot which oscillates the steering column, an electric assist unit lying at a lower end of the steering column to transmit an assist force of an electric motor to an output shaft and a lower bracket fixed to the vehicle body at an opposite side of the electric assist unit to the steering column to rotatably support a pivot shaft of the ~~tilt~~ tilt pivot, wherein a housing of the electric assist unit is brought into engagement with the pivot shaft of the tilt pivot via a connecting member in such a manner as to be allowed to move loosely, so that the steering column is allowed to oscillate about the pivot shaft, and wherein a column rotation restricting portion is provided between the lower bracket and the housing.

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, line 15 to page 7, line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

In addition, the invention provides an electric power steering system including an upper bracket fixed to a vehicle body, a steering column disposed between a pair of tightening plate portions of the upper bracket, a steering shaft provided rotatably within the steering column, a tilt mechanism including a tilt clamp which tightly fastens the steering column between the

tightening plate portions of the upper bracket and a tilt pivot which oscillates the steering column, an electric assist unit lying at a lower end of the steering column to transmit an assist force of an electric motor to an output shaft and a lower bracket fixed to the vehicle body at an opposite side of the electric assist unit to the steering column to rotatably support a pivot shaft of the ~~tile~~-tilt pivot, wherein a housing of the electric assist unit is brought into engagement with the pivot shaft of the tilt pivot in such a manner as to be allowed to move loosely, so that the steering column is allowed to oscillate about the pivot shaft, and wherein a column rotation restricting portion is provided between the lower bracket and the housing.

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, line 9 to page 9, line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

In the invention, to restrict the oscillation of the steering column, a reference angle is determined which is slightly larger than an angle which satisfies a tilt stroke. The column rotation restricting portion such as a stopper projection which resists the rotation is disposed in order to forcibly stop the oscillation of the steering column when the rotating angle of the tilt pivot reaches an angle corresponding to the reference angle. In the event that the column rotation restricting portion is disposed, since the ~~tile~~-tilt pivot does not reach a rotating angle which corresponds to the reference angle in a tilt adjustment operation, the oscillation of the steering column is not interrupted at all, whereby the steering column can be inclined smoothly to a desired angle. On the contrary, when the tilt pivot reaches the rotating angle, since the stopper projection comes into contact with a mating surface, the steering column cannot rotate

any further, and hence the oscillation is stopped, whereby the oscillation of the steering column can be made so moderate that the oscillation of the steering column is suppressed effectively.

Please replace the paragraph at page 15, line 18 to page 16, line 13 with the following amended paragraph:

While a rotating angle of the ~~tilt~~tilt pivot 10 is such as not only to satisfy a tilt stroke but also to allow for the rotation to a rotating angle equal to or larger than the tilt stroke satisfying angle, an upper limit and a lower limit are determined for this rotating angle. When the steering column 1 can oscillate from a neutral position downwardly to an angle θ_1 and upwardly to an angle θ_2 (refer to Fig. 1), the lower limit and the upper limit of the rotating angle are determined based on angles θ_3 , θ_4 as reference which result when certain extra angles are added to the angles θ_1 , θ_2 , respectively. Consequently, the gap is maintained between the distal ends of the primary stopper projections 23a, 23b and the front surface f of the yoke member 21 while the tilt pivot 10 oscillates downwardly until a rotating angle corresponding to the reference angle θ_3 is reached. On the other hand, the gap between the distal end of the secondary stopper projection 24 and the front surface f of the yoke member 21 is maintained while the tilt pivot 10 oscillates upwardly until a rotating angle corresponding to the reference angle θ_4 is reached.

Please replace the paragraph at page 21, line 16 to page 22, line 11 with the following amended paragraph:

A rotating angle of the ~~tilt~~tilt pivot 10 is such as not only to satisfy a tilt stroke but also to allow for the rotation to a rotating angle equal to or larger than the tilt stroke satisfying angle,

and an upper limit and a lower limit are determined for this rotating angle. When the steering column 1 can oscillate from a neutral position downwardly to an angle θ_1 and upwardly to an angle θ_2 (refer to Fig. 7), the lower limit and the upper limit of the rotating angle are determined based on angles θ_3 , θ_4 as reference which result when certain extra angles are added to the angles θ_1 , θ_2 , respectively. Consequently, the gap is maintained between the distal end of the primary stopper projection 28 and the lower surface *f* of the lower bracket 25 while the tilt pivot 10 oscillates downwardly until a rotating angle corresponding to the reference angle θ_3 is reached. On the other hand, the gap between the distal end of the secondary stopper projection 29 and the lower surface *f* of the lower bracket 25 is maintained while the tilt pivot 10 oscillates upwardly until a rotating angle corresponding to the reference angle θ_4 is reached.